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Colby Defends Need to Keep 'Family Secrets'

BY PHILIP HAGER
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SAN FRANCISCO—CIA Director William E. Colby defended Wednesday the need to maintain "national family secrets" but suggested his agency's mission should be clarified by new laws and guidelines.

Speaking to more than 900 persons at a Commonwealth Club luncheon here, Colby declared:

"I fully support procedures to ensure supervision, control and accountability with respect to our intelligence. I only plead that these procedures take into consideration the unique and fragile character of our sensitive intelligence operations."

Noting charges of illegal domestic operations and other recent criticisms of the CIA—and resulting governmental investigations of the agency—Colby asked that the "... laws and guidelines be clarified so that we in the intelligence profession are given a clear expression of the mission the American people and government want us to undertake."

"I ask also that necessary secrets of intelligence be preserved in the interest of our nation ... We believe these secrets need better laws and especially we need to arrive at a consensus that we Americans do have some national family secrets which must be kept."

"To make an open book of our intelligence sources is to invite steps—many quite simple—to deny us information vital to our nation's welfare and safety."

The director stressed the unusual nature of his appearance, pointing out that in many countries the chief intelligence officer is not even known, let alone out making speeches.

"Most of us grew up with the image of intelligence drawn from Nathan Hale, Mata Hari, James Bond and perhaps even Maxwell Smart. This image is no longer valid today," he said.

He noted that collecting intelligence now far more often involves a scholarly, intellectual process rather than clandestine operations and that this process was greatly enhanced by technological advances.

"This now allows us to see, hear and sometimes even touch information previously totally inaccessible and in quantities hitherto totally unmanageable," he said.

CIA information now is often pro-

vided to congressmen, ambassadors, scholars and the press—in unclassified, background sessions—in addition to its traditional recipients, such as generals and admirals, he said.

Colby acknowledged that the agency had made some "missteps" in its 27-year history but added that action had been taken to "correct them and prevent their recurrence."

As for the current investigations of secret, political or paramilitary CIA operations in recent years, Colby asserted:

"I am confident it will be demonstrated that any such activities in past years were conducted under legal authority then existing, reflecting the political climate of those times, and were carried according to properly constituted procedures."

"I must point out that this changed world seems to be changing again. Our country may again need the capability to provide some quiet influence or assistance to friends abroad without engaging the formal diplomatic or military might of the U.S."

In answering questions from the audience, Colby said that in the last five years, "between 400 and 500" Americans overseas had been approached to serve as agents for foreign powers.

P-Hager, Philip
CIA 1.01 Colby, William
Org 1 Commonwealth Club (San Francisco)

RUSSIAN SUB HUNTERS

CIA Vessels in Sea Tests

The Central Intelligence Agency vessel Glomar Explorer and its HMB-1 barge were conducting sea tests of their equipment and crew Wednesday about 1,200 feet offshore in the Santa Catalina Island Isthmus.

Yachtsmen and residents of the isthmus, who said the two vessels have visited there "off and on" for 18 months or more, said the submersible barge arrived Sunday and had completed submerging by Monday morning.

The Glomar Explorer left its dock in Long Beach about three weeks ago, presumably to rendezvous with HMB-1 for tests and practice runs in preparation for its return next month to the site where a Russian submarine sank in the Pacific 750 miles north of Hawaii.

The CIA ship recovered part of the sub last July. But its "claw" was damaged and another had to be built and placed aboard the HMB-1 at Redwood City.

CIA 4.01 Project Jennifer

CIA 4.02 Glomar Explorer